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**Subject:** [wqs-news] Proposed Rule for Revision of Selenium Water Quality Criteria Applicable to the Salt and Estuarine Waters of San Francisco Bay and Delta

FYI

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**From:** WQSnews [mailto:WQSnews@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 01, 2016 9:24 AM  
**To:** Water Quality Standards Information <wqs-news@lists.epa.gov>  
**Subject:** [wqs-news] Proposed Rule for Revision of Selenium Water Quality Criteria Applicable to the Salt and Estuarine Waters of San Francisco Bay and Delta

**Proposed Rule for Revision of Selenium Water Quality Criteria Applicable to the Salt and Estuarine Waters of San Francisco Bay and Delta**

On June 30, 2016, EPA Administrator McCarthy signed a proposed rule to revise the current federal Clean Water Act selenium water quality criteria applicable to the salt and estuarine waters of San Francisco Bay and Delta. This action is being taken to ensure that the criteria are set at levels that protect aquatic life and aquatic-dependent wildlife, including federally listed threatened and endangered species such as green sturgeon, Chinook Salmon, steelhead trout, delta smelt, and the California Ridgway's rail. A prepublication version of the proposed rule can be found at EPA's website at: <https://epa.gov/wqs-tech/water-quality-standards-establishment-revised-numeric-criteria-selenium-san-francisco-bay>.

EPA promulgated the Bay and Delta's existing selenium criteria in 1992 as part of the National Toxics Rule, using EPA's recommended aquatic life criteria values at the time. However, the latest science indicates that the existing criteria are not protective of aquatic life and aquatic-dependent wildlife in the estuary. After the rule is published in the Federal Register in early July 2016, EPA will be accepting comments on the proposal for 60 days. EPA will hold public hearings so that interested parties may provide oral comments on the proposal.

**A virtual public hearing will be held on Monday, August 22, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Pacific Time). Two in-person public hearings will be held on Tuesday, August 23, 2016, one at 9:00 a.m. and one at 2:00 p.m. (Pacific Time), at EPA Region 9, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.**

If you are planning to attend one of the in-person hearings at the Region 9 office, please allow extra time as photo identification and security check-in are required. Additional information concerning the hearings including links to register, and information on submitting written comments during the 60-day comment period can be found at EPA's website at: <https://epa.gov/wqs-tech/water-quality-standards-establishment-revised-numeric-criteria-selenium-san-francisco-bay>.

WQSnews is operated by the Standards and Health Protection Division (SHPD) of US EPA's Office of Water in Washington DC. If you have questions about this announcement, please [contact us](#).

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